

succeeded by Rev. J. C. Johnson. The frame church was torn down in 1910 and a new church was built. A new brick church now occupies the site and bears the name "Oak Grove Church" in memory of the pioneer church although surrounded by a maple grove.

In the early part of the eighteenth century a very important educational work flourished in what was then the village of Hillsboro. Under the supervision of Rev. Jos. Brown the brick Academy was built and contained one large central room and two wings. The name of Hillsboro was abandoned in deference to that of "Academy", so strong was the school's influence on the minds and hearts of the people. In recent years the old name Hillsboro has been restored to the town.

M. A. Dunlap of Poca City, Oklahoma, remembering conversations heard in the home of his uncle Rev. M. D. Dunlap, thinks the first teacher ever in the Hillsboro Community was a man by the name of Keenan, who taught more than a hundred years ago. This teacher was considered a very learned man from the fact that he could read and write, and had figured in the arithmetic as far as the rule of three. The next teacher was the Rev. John S. Blain, a Presbyterian preacher, a teacher, and a physician. Next came Rev. Joseph Brown whose gentle Christian spirit greatly endeared him to the people. It is thought that as he was instrumental in building the new brick building that he was the first teacher within its walls. Rev. M. D. Dunlap succeeded him and taught from 1835 to 1845. His school had a wide reputation among

his pupils and enjoyed the patronage of the Lewises and Irwins of Kanawha County. They were also pupils from Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Bath, and Highland Counties. He taught throughout the entire year and sought the aid of the more advanced pupils, notably, Rev. Wm. T. Price and Rev. James Haines.

Mr. Kelso of Pennsylvania, and Miss Priscilla Ramsey of Augusta County, Virginia, taught one session, and after the close of school were married, and went to western Pennsylvania to conduct a boarding school. Rev. Daniel A. Penick filled the position of teacher one year, boarded at Colonel Paul McNeel's, and the following autumn married the latter's eldest daughter. Rev. Emerson taught two sessions, boarded at Colonel McNeel's and made a compass that ran a perfect line from the McNeel gate to the Academy. Miss May Sprinkle taught in the home of Colonel McNeel the first year of the Civil War and was betrothed to John Burgess the first man from this community to be killed by the Northern soldiers in their initial raid through this country.

From the foregoing, it is easy to understand why so many notable people came from this fine institution of learning. The lives of Mr. Harmanus Stulting and family deserve special mention. They were natives of Holland, and to escape religious persecution, came to this country when it was in its infancy. They were valuable additions to the social life of the community and through their piety accomplished much good in this land of their adoption. Mr. Cornelius

stulting, eldest son in the family, was a fine teacher for many years, and died not so many years ago. Mrs. Carrie Stulting Sydenstricker, a daughter of the family, gave her life as a missionary in China, being sent as a member of the Oak Grove Church. She was the wife of the missionary, Andrew Sydenstricker and the mother of the famous novelist, Pearl Buck.

The first permanent settler in the Hillsboro community was John McNeel of Frederick County, Virginia. He came here in the year 1765.

John McNeel built the White Pole Church on the hill set apart for the McNeel cemetery, the first church in the community.

In the northern section of the Hillsboro community we have Mill Point, a small industrial village, including within its limits proper a store, a blacksmith shop, two flour mills, and three homes. Just above the village is a wonderful spring. The spring gushes forth so abundantly that it forms a miniture cataract. The water is so pure and cold that it is called the Blue Spring. There is a tradition that herds of buffalo formerly gathered in the valley facing the spring and drank from this water, and that it was from the stamping of the buffalo that "Stamping Creek" derived its name. Two of the tribes of Indians that frequented this region were the Ottawas and the Shawnees. Pontiac and Cornstalk were among their leaders. The death of the Bridger boys is the most dramatic story of Indian cruelty we know or in connection with the Mill Point fort.

The people who live in the Hillsboro Community are; the McNeels, Beards, Clarks, Morrisons, Clendenens, Bruffeys, Hills, Moores, Clutters, Auldridges, Harpers, Kinnisons, Wades, Lewises, McCartys, McCoy's, Smiths, Cackleys, Ruckmans, McLaughlins, and others.